

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv., Interior

§ 12.23

state the time, place, and reason for the seizure.

§ 12.12 Appraisalment.

The Service shall determine the value of any cargo, of a vessel or other conveyance employed in unlawful taking, seized under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*, and the value of any property seized under the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; Eagle Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*; Airborne Hunting Act, 16 U.S.C. 742j-1, *et seq.*; or the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, 16 U.S.C. 3371 *et seq.* If the seized property may lawfully be sold in the United States, its domestic value shall be determined in accordance with § 12.3. If the seized property may not lawfully be sold in the United States, its value shall be determined by other reasonable means.

[47 FR 56860, Dec. 21, 1982]

Subpart C—Forfeiture Proceedings

§ 12.21 Criminal prosecutions.

If property is subject to criminal forfeiture, such forfeiture will be obtained in accordance with the *Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure*.

§ 12.22 Civil actions to obtain forfeiture.

The Solicitor may request the Attorney General to file a civil action to obtain forfeiture of any property subject to forfeiture under the Airborne Hunting Act, 16 U.S.C. 742j-1; Lacey Act, 18 U.S.C. 43-44; Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, 16 U.S.C. 3371 *et seq.*; Black Bass Act, 16 U.S.C. 851 *et seq.*; Marine Mammal Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*; Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*; Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, 16 U.S.C. 718 *et seq.*; Eagle Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*; or Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.* Before any such action is filed against property subject to forfeiture under the Lacey Act, 18 U.S.C. 43, or against property, other than the cargo of a vessel or other conveyance employed in unlawful taking, subject to forfeiture under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*, a civil penalty must first be assessed in accordance with the statute

and applicable regulations, and no such action may be filed more than 30 days after the conclusion of civil penalty assessment proceedings.

[47 FR 56860, Dec. 21, 1982]

§ 12.23 Administrative forfeiture proceedings.

(a) *When authorized.* Whenever any property subject to forfeiture under the Eagle Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*, or Airborne Hunting Act, 16 U.S.C. 742j-1, or any wildlife or plant subject to forfeiture under the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*, or any fish, wildlife or plant subject to forfeiture under the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, 16 U.S.C. 3371 *et seq.*, is determined under § 12.12 to have a value not greater than \$100,000, the Solicitor may obtain forfeiture of such property in accordance with this section.

(b) *Procedure*—(1) *Notice of proposed forfeiture.* As soon as practicable following seizure, the Solicitor shall issue a notice of proposed forfeiture.

(A) *Publication.* The notice shall be published once a week for at least three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality where the property was seized. If the value of the seized property as determined under § 12.12 does not exceed \$1000, the notice may be published by posting, instead of newspaper publication, for at least three successive weeks in a conspicuous place accessible to the public at the Service's enforcement office, the U.S. District Court or the U.S. Customhouse nearest the place of seizure. In cases of posting, the date of initial posting shall be indicated on the notice. In addition to newspaper publication or posting, a reasonable effort shall be made to serve the notice personally or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, on each person whose whereabouts and interest in the seized property are known or easily ascertainable.

(B) *Contents.* The notice shall be in substantially the same form as a complaint for forfeiture filed in United States District Court. The notice shall describe the property, including, in the case of motor vehicles, the license, registration, motor, and serial numbers. The notice shall state the time and place of seizure, as well as the reason